

**ABSTRACT**

The present invention provides modified oligomeric compounds for use in the RNA interference pathway of gene modulation. The modified oligomeric compounds are each prepared having a 5'-phosphate precursor which can be modulated to provide a 5'-phosphate group under selected conditions. In another embodiment of the invention the 5'-phosphate precursor is labile inside a target cell thereby providing an oligomeric compounds having a 5'-phosphate intercellularly.